

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MONTRE 00605 041804Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10  
NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00  
OMB-01 /076 W  
-----106220 050741Z /10

R 041750Z APR 78  
FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 240  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
AMCONSUL TORONTO

UNCLAS MONTREAL 605

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: RENE MEETS THE ENEMY: THEY ARE NOT HIS

1. PREMIER RENE LEVESQUE ADDRESSED AN OVERFLOW CROWD, LARGEST  
IN HISTORY OF CANADIAN CLUB ALLEGEDLY, OF PREDOMINANTLY ANGLPHONE  
BUSINESSMEN YESTERDAY BUT MADE NO PERCEPTIBLE DENT. ALSO MADE NO  
NEWS, AS HE SAID APPROXIMATELY WHAT HE HAS BEEN SAYING ALL ALONG.

2. MAJOR THEME WAS THAT ECONOMY HAS IMPROVED SINCE HIS GOVERN-  
MENT TOOK OVER THE ABYSMAL CONDITIONS LEFT BY THE BOURASSA  
LIBERALS. DEBT IS DOWN, UNEMPLOYMENT HAS NOT RISEN AS MUCH  
PROPORTIONATELY AS THE NATIONAL AVERAGE (HE DID NOT MENTION THAT  
IT HAD STARTED FROM A HIGHER BASE), AND THE NEXT BUDGET SHOULD  
HAVE SOME JOB-STIMULATING EFFECTS.

3. SPEECH WAS DELIVERED IN UNCHARACTERISTIC STYLE -- NO PASSION,  
NO SHRUGS, NO "WHAT THE HELLS". IT WAS INTERRUPTED BY APPLAUSE  
ONLY ONCE, JUST AFTER A REMINDER THAT QUEBEC IS STILL A PROVINCE  
OF CANADA, AND THAT APPLAUSE WAS SUSTAINED. THIS PROMPTED  
ONLY DRAMATIC MOMENT, A FIERY AD LIB TO EFFECT THAT HIS PARTY'S  
GOALS ARE NOT FOUNDED ON HOSTILITY TO CANADA BUT ARE BASED IN  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 MONTRE 00605 041804Z

BELIEF THAT SOVEREIGNTY-ASSOCIATION WILL BE BEST NOT ONLY FOR  
QUEBEC BUT FOR REST OF CANADA AS WELL.

4. QUESTION PERIOD BROUGHT ANOTHER OUTBURST, WHEN QUERY ON  
"FREE CHOICE" OF LANGUAGE OF EDUCATION RAISED IN FRANCH.  
REPLY IN FRENCH (FRENCH FEEL THREATENED, NO GOVERNMENT --  
PQ, LIBERAL, OR WHATEVER -- WOULD BRING BACK FREEDOM OF CHOICE)

WAS AGAIN IMPASSIONED. HOWEVER, WHEN HE REPEATED RESPONSE IN ENGLISH TWO CHANGES WERE OBVIOUS: THE TONE REVERTED TO ONE OF CALM REASON AND, IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEVER-AGAIN THEME, HE STRESSED "WHILE THIS IS STILL A PROVINCE" WHICH DID NOT APPEAR IN FRENCH VERSION. INFERENTIALLY ONE COULD ASSUME THAT ONCE THEY ARE "MAITRES CHEZ NOUS" THE SENSE OF THREAT WILL DISAPPEAR AND GENEROSITY AGAIN REIGN.

5. COMMENT: LEVESQUE'S EFFORTS TO REASSURE HIS AUDIENCE THAT HIS GOVERNMENT IS NOT ANTI-BUSINESS (E.G. THE VARIOUS GENERAL AND SECTORAL "SUMMITS" OF THE PAST YEAR) APPARENTLY WERE NOT TOO PERSUASIVE. APPLAUSE AT THE END WAS POLITE BUT NOT NEARLY SO SUSTAINED AS FOR JOE CLARK AFTER HIS RECENT APPEARANCE BEFORE THE SAME (BUT SMALLER) GATHERING.  
HARPER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BUSINESSMEN, ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, SPEECHES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978MONTRE00605  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780146-0884  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MONTREAL  
**Handling Restrictions:**  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780495/aaaadcye.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 36ae09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3082732  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** RENE MEETS THE ENEMY: THEY ARE NOT HIS  
**TAGS:** PINT, ECON, CA, (LEVESQUE, RENE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/36ae09b7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014